

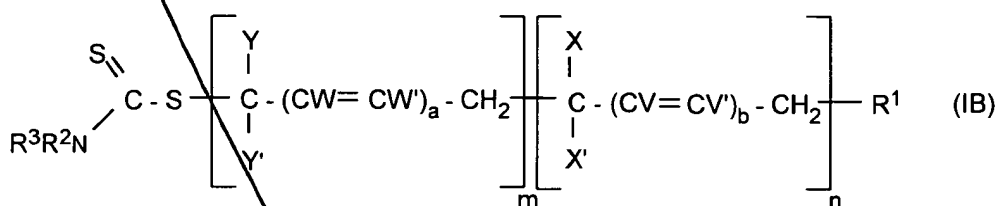
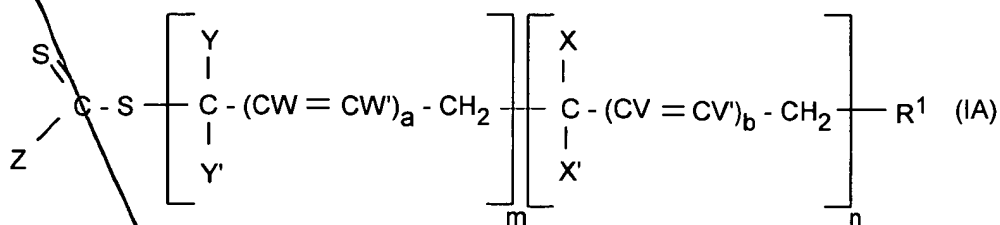
Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following amendment and remarks.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Amended) A process for preparing block polymers of general formula (IA) or

(IB):



in which formulae:

-  $\text{R}^1$  represents:

- an optionally substituted alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkene or alkyne group (i),
- an optionally substituted or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, carbocycle (ii), or
- an optionally substituted or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, heterocycle (iii),
- optionally, these groups and rings (i), (ii) and (iii) are substituted with substituted phenyl groups, substituted aromatic groups, or groups: alkoxycarbonyl or aryloxy carbonyl ( $-\text{COOR}$ ), carboxyl ( $-\text{COOH}$ ), acyloxy ( $-\text{O}_2\text{CR}$ ), carbamoyl ( $-\text{CONR}_2$ ), cyano ( $-\text{CN}$ ), alkylcarbonyl, alkylarylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl,

arylalkylcarbonyl, phthalimido, maleimido, succinimido, amidino, guanidimo,  
hydroxyl (-OH), amino (-NR<sub>2</sub>), halogen, allyl, epoxy, alkoxy (-OR), S-alkyl, S-aryl,  
organosilyl, groups having a hydrophilic or ionic character,

R representing an alkyl or aryl group,

- Z is an optionally substituted ring comprising a nitrogen atom via which Z is linked  
to the C(=S)-S- group of formula (IA), the other atoms of said ring inducing a  
delocalizing or electron-withdrawing effect with respect to the electron density of the  
nitrogen atom,

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-R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup>, which are identical or different, represent:

an optionally substituted alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkene or alkyne group (i),

an optionally substituted or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, carbocycle (ii), or

an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated, heterocycle (iii),

optionally, these groups and rings (i), (ii) and (iii) are substituted with:

- substituted phenyl groups or substituted aromatic groups,

- groups: alkoxycarbonyl or aryloxy carbonyl (-COOR), carboxyl (-COOH),

acyloxy (-O<sub>2</sub>CR), carbamoyl (-CONR<sub>2</sub>), cyano (-CN), alkylcarbonyl,

alkylarylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, arylalkylcarbonyl, phthalimido, maleimido,

succinimido, amidino, guanidimo, hydroxyl (-OH), amino (-NR<sub>2</sub>), halogen,

allyl, epoxy, alkoxy (-OR), S-alkyl, S-aryl,

- groups having a hydrophilic or ionic character,

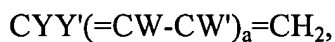
R representing an alkyl or aryl group,

and, for at least  $R^2$  or  $R^3$ , these groups and rings (i), (ii) and (iii) induce a delocalizing or electron-withdrawing effect with respect to the electron density of the nitrogen atom to which  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are linked,

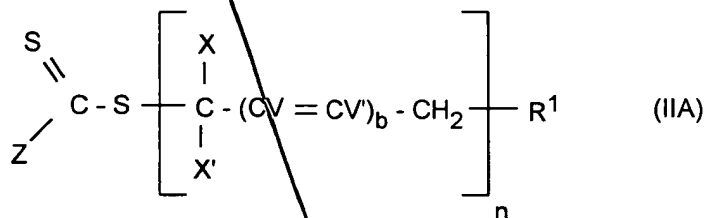
- $V, V', W$  and  $W'$ , which are identical or different, represent: H, an alkyl group or a halogen,
- $X, X', Y$  and  $Y'$ , which are identical or different, represent H, a halogen, a group  $R'$ ,  $OR'$ ,  $OCOR'$ ,  $NHCOH$ ,  $OH$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR'$ ,  $N(R')_2$ ,  $(R')_2N^+O^-$ ,  $NHCOR'$ ,  $CO_2H$ ,  $CO_2R'$ ,  $CN$ ,  $CONH_2$ ,  $CONHR'$  or  $CONR'_2$ , wherein  $R'$  is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkene or organosilyl groups, optionally perfluorinated and optionally substituted with one or more carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino, halogen or sulphonic groups,
- $a$  and  $b$ , which are identical or different, are equal to 0 or 1,
- $m$  and  $n$ , which are identical or different, are greater than 1, the individual repeat units being identical or different,

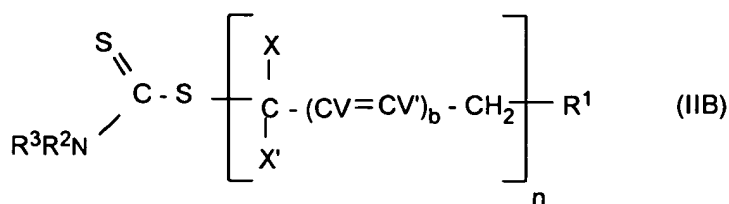
said process comprising the step of bringing into contact with each other:

- an ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula:



- a precursor compound of general formula (IIA) or (IIB):



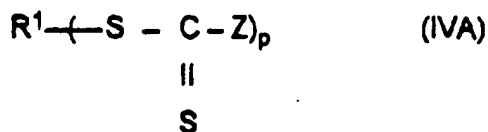
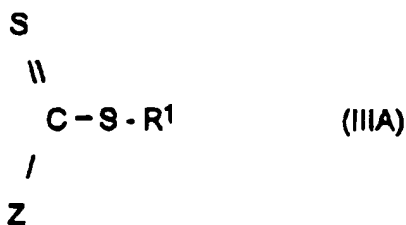


wherein Z, X, X', V, V', R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the same meaning, and b and n the same value, as previously; and

- a radical polymerization initiator compound.

Please amend claim 44 as follows:

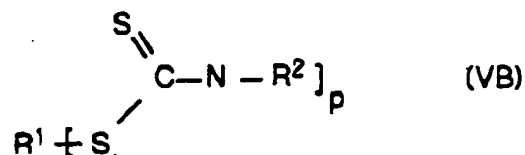
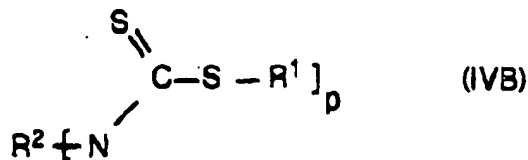
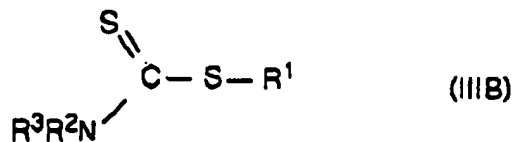
44. (Amended) A process according to claim 29, wherein the precursor compound of general formula (IIA) is a polymer coming from the radical polymerization of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula: CXX' (=CV-CV')<sub>b</sub>=CH<sub>2</sub> during which said monomer is brought into contact with a radical polymerization initiator compound and a compound of general formula (IIIA) or (IVA):



p being between 2 and 10.

Please amend claim 46 as follows:

46. (Amended) A process according to claim 29, wherein the precursor compound of general formula (IIB) is a polymer coming from the radical polymerization of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula:  $CXX'(=CV-CV')_b=CH_2$  during which said monomer is brought into contact with a radical polymerization initiator compound and a compound of general formula (IIIB), (IVB) or (VB):



p being between 2 and 10.

Please cancel claim 49.

Please amend claim 50 as follows:

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50. (Amended) Block polymer made by the process according to claim 29, having a polydispersity index of at most 2.

Please amend claim 52 as follows:

B5

52. (Amended) Block polymer according to claim 50, having at least two polymer blocks chosen from the following combinations:

- polystyrene/polymethyl acrylate,

- B3
- polystyrene/polyethyl acrylate,
  - polystyrene/poly(*tert*-butyl acrylate),
  - polyethyl acrylate/polyvinyl acetate,
  - polybutyl acrylate/polyvinyl acetate, or
  - poly(*tert*-butyl acrylate)/polyvinyl acetate.
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Please add the new following claim 53:

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53. (New) A process according to claim 29, wherein groups having a hydrophilic or ionic character are alkali metal salts of carboxylic acids alkali metal salts of sulphonic acid, polyalkylene oxide chains (PEO, PPO), or quaternary ammonium salts.

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Marked-up amended claims according to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 are submitted in an attached document. Added matter is shown by underline and deleted matter is shown by strikethrough.

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.